

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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USMISSION USNATO

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12496

USDOC FOR DR. COURTENAY M. SLATER AND BEWT

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEWT, COMECON, UR

SUBJECT: BOGOMOLOV SAYS USSR WILL DELIVER THE OIL

SUMMARY: DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS OF THE WORLD

SOCIALIST SYSTEM OLEG BOGOMOLOV TOLD USG OFFICIALS THAT

USSR WOULD SELL OIL TO EAST AND WEST ALIKE, IN 1980'S

AS WELL AS THEREAFTER, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THERE MIGHT BE A

"STRUCTURAL CHANGE" IN COMPOSITION OF SOVIET ENERGY

EXPORTS, WITH GAS UP AND OIL DOWN.

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1. ON MAY 30 DR. COURTENAY SLATER, CHIEF ECONOMIST OF USDOC, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY E/C COUNSELOR, MET WITH PROFESSOR OLEG BOGOMOLOV AT INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS OF THE WORLD SOCIALIST SYSTEM. BOGOMOLOV HAD COLLEAGUES (FNU) FOMIN AND VRATISLAV DASHISHEV WITH HIM.

2. ON QUESTION OF SOVIET SUPPLIES OF PETROLEUM TO EASTERN

EUROPE AFTER 1980, BOGOMOLOV, AFTER MAKING RESERVATION THAT HE KNOW MORE ABOUT SOME OTHER (CEMA) COUNTRIES THAN HE DOES ABOUT HIS OWN, STATED THAT LONG TERM TARGET PROGRAM ON ENERGY WAS LIKELY TO BE APPROVED AT CEMA COUNCIL, PROBABLY IN JUNE. BOGOMOLOV SAID THAT QUANTITY O OIL AND GAS DELIVERED TO EASTERN EUROPE "WOULD NOT CHANGE" FROM CURRENT LEVELS, BUT HE SUBSEQUENTLY EXPLAINED THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME "STRUCTURAL CHANGE" IN THE PATTERN OF SOVIET ENERGY EXPORTS TO THE AREA, WITH GAS AN ELECTRICITY SOMEWHAT HIGHER AND OIL LOWER. NEVERTHELESS, HE THOUGHT THAT USSR WOULD BE SELLING OIL TO EAST EUROPE IN THE 1980'S AND IN THE 1990'S, AS HE PUT IT. BOGOMOLOV VOLUNTEERED THAT THE SAME WAS TRUE OF SOVIET SALES TO THE WEST - THERE WOULD STILL BE OIL AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT.

3. BOGOMOLOV SAID THAT ENERGY EXPORTS DEPENDED ON MANY FACTORS, AMONG THEM PRICE. HE NOTED THAT USSR SELLS FRANCO NATIONAL BORDER AND HENCE BEARS BURDEN FOR INCREAS ING COST OF ENERGY PRODUCTION. DR. SLATER REMINDED BOGOMOLOV THAT EAST EUROPEANS ARE HELPING SOVIETS TO DEVELOP THEIR ENERGY RESOURCES.

4. BOGOMOLOV CHARGED THAT CIA STUDY OF SOVIET OIL WAS "INEXACT" AND PROPAGANDISTIC. WHILE UNAWARE OF WHAT METHODS CIA HAD USED, BOGOMOLOV SAID, IT HAD CLEARLY NEGLECTED THE RESERVES UNDER OLD OIL FIELDS WHICH ARE NOW CONFIDENTIAL

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BEING EXTRACTED BY NEW METHODS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE "NEW METHODS" INCLUDED USE OF EQUIPMENT IMPORTED FROM THE WEST.

5. WITH REFERENCE TO ORENBURG GAS PIPELINE, BOGOMOLOV ASSERTED THAT IT WOULD TRANSPORT GAS IN EXCESS OF THE NEE OF THE EAST EUROPEAN STATES, WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE TO THE WEST. BOGOMOLOV SMILINGLY RESERVED COMMENT ON POSSIBILITY OF STILL ANOTHER IIB LOAN FOR ORENBURG, BU HE CLEARLY DID NOT RULE ONE OUT (SEPTEL).

6. COMMENT: THE COMMENTS OF BOGOMOLOV ON SOVIET OIL DELIVERIES TO EASTERN EUROPE IN THE PERIOD AFTER 1980 ARE ANOTHER INDICATION OF SOVIET CONFIDENCE THAT THE USSR CAN GO ON EXPORTING TO BOTH THE CEMA COUNTRIES (ALBEIT AT A REDUCED LEVEL) AND TO THE WEST. HE GAVE NO CONVINCING PROOF OF WHY SOVIET OIL PRODUCTION WILL HOLD UP IN THE 1980'S OTHER THAN THE GENERAL REFERENCE TO THE "NEW METHODS" OF RECOVERY FROM CURRENT DEPOSITS. NEVERTHELESS HIS COMMENTS ARE INDICATIVE THAT SOVIETS FEEL SUFFICIENTL CONFIDENT OF OIL SUPPLIES TO ENABLE THEM TO CONCLUDE LONG TERM TARGET PROGRAMS OFFERING EAST EUROPEANS SOME OIL

(AND CONSIDERABLY MORE GAS). MATLOCK

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